

The Fire Fighter Gazette

Issue 28

June 2003

Fire At 3rd Infantry Division In Iraq

Headquarters United States Central Command

Baghdad, Iraq – A fire early this morning {28 April 2003} at the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Main at the Baghdad International Airport caused extensive damage to one section of the building.

Two soldiers suffered smoke inhalation but were treated and released back to their unit.

The fire started around midnight and spread from a storage area in the east end of the Airport Catering Building where the Division Main is located. Fire and heat damage destroyed the 3ID(M) Aid Station as well as several other rooms used to house the Army and Air Force personnel.

Approximately 410 soldiers and airmen live and work in the building. Alternate living quarters are being set up to accommodate the displaced personnel.

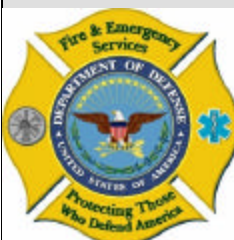


CMSgt of the Air Force Murray checking out a truck while visiting Ramstein AB recently. Can anyone identify the TSgt in the photo?

“It’s too early to tell what started the fire,” said **Senior Master Sgt. Denny Heitman**, BIAP interim fire chief. “We won’t know for sure until we can get inside the area to check.”

Two fire stations, located here at BIAP, were notified and responded. Airmen assigned here from Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., and Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., worked for five hours to contain the fire.

Airmen assigned here from Whiteman Air Force Base, and Nellis Air Force Base, worked for five hours to contain the fire.



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Filling the Jar...

A professor stood before his Philosophy 101 class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a jar of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open spaces between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar and of course the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous yes.

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and proceeded to pour the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the grains of sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things -- your family, your partner, your health, your children, your friends, your favorite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full."

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff.

If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical check-ups. Take your partner out dancing. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

Accredited Agencies

March 12, 2003 -- At the last Commission on Fire Accreditation (CFAI) meeting held in Jersey City on February 21, 2003, six more agencies were accredited by the Commission bringing the total number to 70. Agency heads, accreditation managers, and municipal heads were on hand to witness the various CFAI Team Leaders present their reports recommending accreditation. With many more agencies already working toward accreditation, these newly accredited agencies are at the forefront of the accreditation movement. Our heartiest congratulations to all of these agencies!

The agencies receiving the "Accredited Agency" status were:

Clark County – Nevada – Chief Earle Greene

Hill Air Force Base – Utah – Chief Rob Schultz

Los Alamos – New Mexico – Chief Doug McDonald

NAS Patuxent River – Maryland – Chief George Kennett

Parker – Colorado – Chief Daniel Qualman

Sioux Falls – South Dakota – Chief Donn Hill

Congratulations to all of these agencies!



And then there were three...

In addition to the Air Force Academy and Hill AFB, Elmendorf AFB was recommended for accreditation on June 5th. Congratulations to **Chief Bennyhoff** and his staff as they completed the program and had it validated by the team of CFAI peer assessors. **CMSgt(s) Ken Helgersen** (the accreditation manager) flew back to Elmendorf (he is currently the chief at McChord) for the visit, to answer any questions or issues that may have arisen on their accreditation package.

Elmendorf is the third Air Force base to complete the CFAI process, and the second that Ken has been involved with...he was a part of the team that put together the accreditation package for the Air Force Academy.

PX reopens days after destructive fire

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, February 2003 — The temporary Post Exchange re-opened for business with its regular hours of operations just three days after a fire razed the original facility. The blaze completely destroyed the PX, barbershop, gift and coffee shop and the personal living quarters of 25 Army AAFES employees. Also damaged was the Morale, Welfare and Recreation computer, movie and telephone tents, located next to the previous PX. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The PX was a complete loss because Air Force fire fighters concentrated on containing the fire that was heading towards a diesel fuel bladder and other critical buildings. Fierce winds, measured at 22 knots at the time of the fire, and the confined space around the PX compound made saving any part of the building difficult. The fire continued to smolder throughout Friday night." We went to the back and the wind was blowing towards us," said Airman 1st Class Charvis Kali Gordan, an Air Force firefighter. "We got there and there was debris, ash, pitch black smoke and my eyes were burning even with my mask on. My helmet started burning up a little bit so I knew it was hot. The fire, which took five water trucks, bulldozers and 20 firefighters to contain, destroyed 90 percent of AAFES food at the base as well as all its stock on the shelves. The damage, according to Scott Curran, AAFES field accountant, is well over \$1 million by conservative estimates. Curran, like the other 24 AAFES employees, lost everything in the blaze — from clothing and his bed to irreplaceable items like photographs, he said. But despite personal losses, Curran and other employees concentrated first on getting the temporary PX open for business. "Our primary mission is to take care of the soldiers," he said.



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM -- Airman 1st Class Brandon Olsen (left) and Senior Airman Dwight Moses pump water from a stream near Bashur Airfield in northern Iraq to fill their fire truck. The firefighters are from different bases but now assigned to the 86th Expeditionary Contingency Response Group. They make several trips a week to the stream to get water for the airfield.



Yokota Air Base, Japan (AFPN)- A fire truck from the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan, extinguish flames that engulfed an aircraft after it "crashed" here during a combat readiness employment inspection.

ACTIVATION OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSE (CDC)10612 AND 10612G, PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR I/II

1. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES GUIDANCE FROM THE AIR FORCE CAREER FIELD MANAGER (AFCFM) FOR PERSONNEL IN AFSC 3E7X1. BASE TRAINING MANAGERS: PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE TO ALL TRAINING MANAGERS IN UNITS WITH 3E7X1 PERSONNEL ASSIGNED, AND HELP ENSURE REQUIREMENTS ARE PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED.
2. CDC 10612 AND 10612G ARE ACTIVATED EFFECTIVE 07 MAY 03, ARE VOLUNTARY FOR ALL 3E7X1 PERSONNEL. SEE THE AIR FORCE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING (AFIADL) CATALOG FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
3. THIS IS A HQ AFCESA/CEXF AND HQ AFPC/DPPAT COORDINATED MESSAGE. POC: SMSGT LAURENT R. MCDONALD, HQ AFCESA/CEXF, DSN 523-6442 OR EMAIL LAURENT.MCDONALD@TYNDALL.AF.MIL. SUBORDINATE UNITS AND SUPERVISORS PLEASE COORDINATE YOUR QUESTIONS THROUGH YOUR UNIT OR BASE TRAINING MANAGER. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT THE COURSE AUTHOR, MSGT CRAIG S. HALL, HQ AFCESA/CEXF, DSN 523-6221 OR EMAIL CRAIG.HALL@TYNDALL.AF.MIL.

Message from CMSgt Stewart

Fire Chiefs - would you please share my words with your firefighters,

I wanted to get this message out now due to the success of OIF, we are starting realignment/movement of forces. My part of the mission is complete and I must return home for personal reasons, so I depart with mixed emotions. USCENTAF Chief of Fire Protection SMSgt Eric Mortensen will take over the job at CENTAF-PSAB/C-7 to continue support of OEF/OIF missions. Neither mission is over, we still have a lot left to accomplish from standing up new locations, closing other locations, realigning some

locations, and preparing the rotation plan (getting firefighters home). I know the fire chiefs will provide SMSgt Mortensen the same outstanding support as they have provided me. Eric and MSgt Pat Rodriguez worked fire issues behind the scenes at CENTAF-SHAW and have done an outstanding job supporting you in the field tracking down equipment, vehicles, and firefighters in a very complex system (if you only knew). They were my back bone of the operation...an outstanding team! Air Force Fire Protections success in both OEF and OIF was because the deployed firefighters made it happen!

I've had the distinct Honor and Privilege to serve as the AOR Fire Chief for both Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (2001) and now Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (2003). Throughout both campaigns Air Force firefighters have faced extreme challenges with limited resources and excelled! Currently, 700 plus Air Force (active duty, guard, reserve) firefighters stationed at bases from the SWA to the Stans to Iraq to USAFE are keeping watch over the safety of everyone involved OEF/OIF. As we built up to face Iraq, OEF Afghanistan was in still in full swing, not only supporting the base mission but numerous FOLs, neither campaigns missed a beat. We had many frustrating times trying to get critical firefighters, vehicles, and resources to the bases. But each time I spoke with the fire chiefs to explain the problems, their positive attitude ensured me the firefighters were making it happen, from using general purpose vehicles as rescue, using condemned fuel bladders as EWS, patching up P-19s, or working jointly with host nation. Your leadership, character, commitment, and dedicated service in support for over 25 bases and numerous forward operating locations were further highlighted during emergency responses. Those emergencies ranged from the traditional IFE/Ground emergencies, large tent city fires, aircraft fires with weapons, and numerous small aircraft wheel fires that seemed insignificant to firefighters, but with the rapid intervention prevented the incident from escalating and the loss to critical weapon platforms. Nothing

new...we've done that since the creation of the fire and emergency services. Always doing more with less and stepping up to the challenge of saving lives, property, and the environment. I'm truly humbled by your actions!

When you look back on your service to our Nation, you can be proud of how all Air Force firefighters performed. Always taking the challenge head-on and succeeding. Utilizing risk assessment and providing senior leadership with options to support the mission was crucial...senior fire officials identified capabilities, shortfalls and provided solutions to allow the Wing/CC to take the best course of action for the success of the mission. By providing these fact-based recommendations from the base level it illustrated how depleted our firefighting resources are, while at the same time showed OUR flexibility to support the war mission. What a clan...none better!

Not only was your fire protection performance outstanding, so was your direct support to the CE TEAM. Firefighters were instrumental in building tent cities and laying down A-2 matting, right along side of the EA/EP teams. At many locations (just like at the beginning of OEF) firefighters were first on the ground putting up tents. Making the mission happen!

On the CENTAF side: Our senior leadership from CFACC Lt Gen Moseley to CE Directorate Col Baughman fully understands how important firefighters are to the mission success. Col Baughman's leadership and support was instrumental in my ability to provide the critical assets to support the fire departments in the AOR. Not a day passed that CFR was not a hot issue and concerns of how the firefighters were doing. Your importance was further highlighted as new CFACC and CFLCC missions required immediate CFR support. The timelines did not allow for reach back. That drove utilizing two concepts to support

FOL operations in extreme combat environments. Taking from bases that were already stretched thin, first strike fire teams consisting of firefighters/one P-19 forward deployed and combined with the employment of the new Airborne Red Horse Firefighters, allowed CENTAF to provide critical CFR support. Both concepts further illustrated fire protection's flexibility and agility directly contributing to the combat mission success and safety of all personnel/assets. Your presence brings peace of mind to everyone you protect...always remember this! On the Air Force CE side: Maj Gen Robbins, Chief Warner/AFCEA Fire Staff, and MAJCOM Civil Engineers/Chiefs of Fire Protection/Staff appreciate your sacrifices both in wartime and peacetime. They are doing everything possible to improve our Air

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Force fire protection capabilities. Overall, they have championed numerous quality of life programs for firefighters, new vehicles, and equipment...we are heading in the right direction! But the process does not get fixed overnight. Take it from someone who has worked the acquisition process; once identified it takes years to fix a problem from justifying funds and finally the company produces the end product. Those battles still go on!

The Future of fire protection looks good. You will see deployment ops tempo significantly reduced. With the first purchase in 2000 of 4 - TI 3000's started the process to modernize the SWA fleet, by chance these vehicles rolled off the assemble line at the beginning of OEF with an immediate impact. Then in Nov 2001, CENTAF started the process to buy another nine 3000 gallon ARFF vehicles, which will be delivered in May 03 giving a total of 20 in the AOR. CENTAF has 12 new light weight rescue vehicles on the way. These new vehicles combined with the 48/24 hour shift will reduce the overall deployment ops tempo from home station. Positive changes are happening, just give them a chance to take hold, the future is good!

To those individuals still trying to decide to make the Air Force a career. The Air Force provides a very good package to include the ability to change jobs if you wish to do something besides firefighting. My advice for you, truly look at all your options. That \$40,000 job sounds real good, but think about the rent, car, insurance (auto, medical, dental), food, federal/state taxes, social security, and then pay into your own retirement account. See what is left over after that. The Air Force is a great way of life. Rarely will you find this level of responsibility and opportunity to lead at such a young age. If you still decide to go, I thank you for serving our nation and wish you the best in life.

For those who have already made the decision to make the Air Force a career. Thank You! Now get involved in our fire protection and Air Force! Be proactive by influencing the areas within your span of control. Seek out opportunities to be a leader and understand your role as follower. As a supervisor engage with your troops, be positive instead of negative. Train your replacement! Take a serious look at our profession as an Air Force firefighter. No other fire and emergency services requires the level of expertise we are faced with. Think about the complexity of everything we are responsible for understanding from aircraft to WMD, then add the wartime environment. No one will know everything, but the only thing that stops you from learning, is yourself. Take an EMTB as example, if you only know 80% of the knowledge to save a life, than what happens when you are faced with the other 20%!

Same concept in all areas of fire protection. Now factor in you are a military professional in the greatest Air Force in the world, with responsibilities to understand our military profession. Do not let life pass you by, be a leader!

Always remember your importance to the success of the mission--with aircrews, base personnel, and the war fighters' lives at stake, YOU are the insurance the Air Force can't afford to be without. "What we bring to the fight, is a safety factor that the Air Force is not willing to give up. Assets we can always replace, people we can't."

"The Desire to Serve, The Ability to Perform, and The Courage to Act"

As you return home, do not forgot about those on the home front; the firefighters (civilian/military) that remained to support the home station mission and your family. They also played a critical role in the overall success of the Air Force mission. The home station firefighters and family members provided both the support and held down the fort to allow you to serve our nation. We owe them all a big thank you!

If you wish to contact me after 4 May 03, you can reach me at Moody via e-mail: darryl.stewart@moody.af.mil. I will be around for another six months before I retire. Veronica, Natasha, and I, have you all in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Chief Darryl Stewart



Here is a picture of a recent F-15 crash (not U.S.) that our Air Force firefighters extinguished...pilot self-egressed and no firefighters were injured. Once again Air Force Firefighters leading the way!

DARRYL R. STEWART, CMSgt, USAF

AWARD OF PCS SHORT TOUR CREDIT FOR TDY

FROM: HQ AFPC RANDOLPH AFB TX//DPA//

PART I - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. APPROVAL IS GRANTED TO AWARD PCS SHORT TOUR CREDIT AS A TEMPORARY EXCEPTION TO POLICY TO MEMBERS WHO MEET ALL OF THE CRITERIA LISTED BELOW. THIS CREDIT IS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE CHANCES OF THOSE MEMBERS BEING SENT AS NON-VOLUNTEERS TO AN UNACCOMPANIED PCS SHORT TOURS SOON AFTER A PROLONGED CONTINGENCY DEPLOYMENT.

2. MEMBERS MEETING ALL THE CRITERIA ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REQUESTING ACTION THROUGH THEIR PERMANENT DUTY STATION MPF, PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT ELEMENT AFTER PROCESSING AND COMPLETING THEIR TRAVEL VOUCHER THROUGH THEIR SUPPORTING FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFICE (FSO.) CRITERIA:

A. TDY OVERSEAS (OS) STARTING ON OR AFTER 11 SEPT 2001

B. TDY (MINIMUM OF 181 CONSECUTIVE DAYS)

C. TDY LOCATION IS DESIGNATED BY DOD AS A HOSTILE FIRE OR IMMINENT DANGER PAY AREA AS OUTLINED IN THE DOD FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REGULATION VOLUME 7A, CH 10, FIGURE 10-1, DESIGNATED HOSTILE FIRE OR IMMINENT DANGER PAY AREA.

3. THE DOD FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REGULATION MAY BE ACCESSED USING THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/comptroller/fmr/>

PART II - ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

1. MEMBERS WHO DEPART ON EMERGENCY LEAVE FROM THE TDY LOCATION AND RETURN WILL CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE TDY CREDIT TOWARD THE 181 CONSECUTIVE DAYS. THE TIME ON EMERGENCY LEAVE WILL NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE 181 DAY REQUIREMENT. THE ACCUMULATION OF DAYS WILL RESUME UPON THE MEMBERS RETURN. FOR EXAMPLE, A MEMBER WHO SERVED 160 DAYS TDY AT A DESIGNATED LOCATION AND DEPARTS ON EMERGENCY LEAVE FOR 20 DAYS WILL RESUME THEIR TDY CREDIT/COUNT UPON RETURN TO THEIR DESIGNATED LOCATION FROM EMERGENCY LEAVE. (MEMBER HAS ACCUMULATED 160 DAYS AS OF 1 APR, GOES ON EMERGENCY LEAVE AND RETURNS TO THE AOR 21 APR. TDY ACCUMULATION CREDIT WILL RESUME ON 21 APR, WITH THE 161 DAY COUNT.)

2. MEMBERS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO DEPART THE TDY LOCATION FOR SHORT PERIODS DUE TO MISSION REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, WILL CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE TDY CREDIT TOWARD THE 181 CONSECUTIVE DAY MINIMUM. HOWEVER, PERIODS SERVED OUT OF THE DESIGNATED LOCATION WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THE 181 DAY REQUIREMENT. THE ACCUMULATION WILL RESUME UPON THE MEMBERS RETURN TO THE TDY LOCATION.

PART III - PROCESSING PROCEDURES:

1. CURRENTLY, MPFS, PERSONNEL EMPLOYMENT ELEMENTS DO NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO UPDATE OS TOUR DATA IN MILPDS. THEREFORE, IN THE INTERIM, EMPLOYMENT ELEMENTS MUST SUBMIT REQUESTS TO AFPC/DPAPP1 AS FOLLOWS

A. VERIFY ALL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA HAS BEEN MET AS OUTLINED IN PART I. THE COMPLETED TRAVEL VOUCHER IS THE ONLY SOURCE DOCUMENT AUTHORIZED TO VERIFY THE AWARD OF PCS SHORT TOUR CREDIT. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE, EMPLOYMENT ELEMENTS ADVISE MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN, INDEFINITELY, THEIR TRAVEL VOUCHER AS PART OF THEIR PERMANENT PERSONAL FILES FOR FUTURE REFERENCE IF NEEDED.

B. SUBMIT A WEEKLY EXCEL SPREADSHEET IDENTIFYING ELIGIBLE MEMBERS USING THE FOLLOWING FIELDS TO

AFPC.DPAPP@RANDOLPH.AF.MIL

LAST NAME

SSN (WITH DASHES)

OS TOUR START DATE (USE ARRIVAL DATE IN DESIGNATED AREA (DD-MMM-YY))

OS TOUR STOP DATE (USE DEPARTURE DATE FROM DESIGNATED AREA (DD-MMM-YY))

NUMBER OF DAYS SERVED (TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS IN THE DESIGNATED AREA ONLY)

C. EXCEL SPREADSHEETS NOT RECEIVED IN THE FORMAT ABOVE WILL BE RETURNED WITHOUT ACTION.

D. AFPC/DPAPP1 WILL COMPILE THE WEEKLY SUBMISSIONS AND UPDATE MILPDS ACCORDINGLY. UPDATE MAY BE VERIFIED IN MILPDS APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AFTER SUBMISSION.

E. AT SOME POINT, MPFS WILL BE PERMITTED TO UPDATE OS TOUR DATA, HOWEVER, FOR NOW THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED ABOVE MUST BE USED.

PART IV - PROCEDURES FOR MEMBERS NOT MEETING THE CRITERIA IN PART I.

AS A REMINDER, THOSE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT MEET ALL THE EXCEPTION CRITERIA WILL HAVE

Snippets...

Hello all you great fire chiefs. Just wanted to let you know that I retired on 1 June--total 44 years 8 months and 4 days. It was great working with all of you during my tenures at SAC, TAC, HQ MAC/AMC and as Chief at Scott. I had one hell of a career with the best people that I know--Thanks for the great memories and keep in touch. Best wishes, **Duane & Barb Morgan**

From **Jim McKay**: We are moving to Tampa FL area (probably Valrico or Brandon), no more snow or State taxes!! Effective 14 Jun my new e-mail will be jimmckay148@hotmail.com

Here are some e-mail address for folks no longer working for this great Air Force of ours:

Dick Duncan: tduncan106@yahoo.com

Carl Glover: glovercb@navfac.navy.mil

Jim LaConte: lacontej@cnrse.navy.mil

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct pleasure to let you know that one of our finest SNCOs has once again added even more luster to our Fire Badge. SMSgt **Kevin Remedies** was a Distinguished Graduate from the Senior NCO Academy. Kevin's devotion to his fellow firefighters and to his nation continues to reflect positively on himself, the other fine folks that wear the Fire Badge, and the United States Air Force. We are proud of his many accomplishments and look forward to his leadership at the USAFE Headquarters. Congratulations Kevin, Well Done!

Donald W. Warner
DONALD W. WARNER, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Chief, Air Force Fire Protection



Picture taken at the Lowry Fire School in the late 1950s.
Does anyone recognize this "young pup"?

Hugh Pike wins two awards

I had the opportunity to meet with Hugh Pike last week and inform him that he was selected by the Board to receive the Hudiburg Award at this year's conference. To say he was surprised and overjoyed is an understatement. As I told our senior staff, I observed a freak of nature—Hugh Pike stunned into silence. Although it didn't last long, it was obvious that he considered it an honor and he wanted for me to pass on his appreciation to you.

You may not be aware that Hugh was also selected this year to be the recipient of IFSAC's Martin E. Grimes award (see <http://www.ifsac.org/award.html>). While Harold received both awards during his career, this is the first time that someone has won both in the same year. Along with his selection of this year's "Mr. Congeniality" by the National Cattlemen's Club, Hugh has captured the triple crown!

All kidding aside, I had the privilege of notifying Hugh. It was a true honor to meet with one of our service's outstanding leaders, but also just a true joy to see his reaction. Hugh is not only a worthy recipient, but one who will only add to the credibility and prestige of the award. Chief Hudiburg would undoubtedly be proud, and rightly so.

Chris Neal, Director
OSU Fire Protection Publications



The following is the list of firefighters who were promoted to the grade of SMSgt. Originally we were only supposed to receive 9 promotions but we were added to the Chronic Critical Skills Program which added four additional promotions. Welcome to the Top 2% and congratulations!

MSgt Robert Appling
MSgt Nicholas Campbell
MSgt Dwright Davis
MSgt David Fain
MSgt Brian Foster
MSgt Rudolfo Gonzalez
MSgt Todd Katz
MSgt Michael LeFebvre
MSgt Andre Pare
MSgt Greg Russell
MSgt Edward Sanchez
MSgt Richard Widmark
MSgt George Wong

3E7X1 Training Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

Revised: 9 May 2003; For Additional Information call: 850-283-6442 or DSN 523-6442

Q. Who is affected by the mandatory upgrade training (UGT) requirements message recently sent out by the Fire Protection AFCFM?

A. All active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve personnel who will be enrolled in upgrade training to the 3E751, Fire Protection Journeyman and 3E771, Fire Protection Craftsman skill level.

Q. Why was the message sent out?

A. To inform Air Force personnel of the requirements set forth in AFI 36-2201 Volumes 1-6 and to rescind the in-lieu of statement found in the Career Field Education and Training Plan, which is contrary to AF policy. Simply stated, AF policy requires that CDCs be used for upgrade training, when available. The statements in the CFETP that allowed completion of other certification courses to substitute were wrong. That was the purpose of the message – to correct a wrong.

Q. Does this apply to civil service (civilian) firefighters?

A. No. It only applies to Air Force military personnel in upgrade training to the 5- and 7-skill level.

Q. Does this message apply to Navy, Marine, Army, or other federal firefighters?

A. No. It only applies to Air Force military personnel in upgrade training.

Q. Does this ban the use of state or other contractor provided certification courses?

A. No. CDCs are mandatory for upgrade training as out lined in AFI 36-2201, Volume 3, chapter 9. Unless you already have the certifications before you enter upgrade training status, you must complete the CDCs.

Q. What about the in-residence Fire Inspector I course? Can Air Force personnel in upgrade training to the 7-level go to this course instead of taking the CDC?

A. Yes. Even though Inspector I is one of the easiest CDCs we have, Unit Training Managers request a waiver for the CDC from the AFCFM when an individual obtains a course quota to the Mobile Training Team or in-residence course.

Q. Are courses provided by state academies or private institutions still legitimate for other than those required for 5- and 7-level upgrade training?

A. Yes.

Q. People in the field may not have been aware of this policy. Can HQ AFCESA/CEXF establish a phase in date?

A. Yes. Here is the phase-in plan. Persons in upgrade training status already enrolled may continue the course and it will be accepted as justification to waive the appropriate CDC completion requirements. Other individuals may continue with planned certification courses up to 1 Jan 2004 at which time that door will close. This will avoid situations where funds may already be committed.

Q. I am the fire chief of an ANG or AFRC Fire Protection Flight. If someone joins my unit who already has IFSAC or NPQS certifications, do they have to do CDCs?

A. No. A request for tech school waiver may be submitted IAW AFI 36-2201 as in the past. At initial entry, we will also waive the requirement for any CDCs when they come in the AF already certified. We do the same for Active Duty personnel.

Q. Can I take a certification course through a college or university using my own funds or tuition assistance before entering mandatory upgrade training and when I get the certificates, can I still apply for reciprocity? Do I have to do the CDCs if I am selected for promotion?

A. Yes you can enroll in certification courses at your own expense or using tuition assistance before entering upgrade training. Prior to entering upgrade training you can request a waiver to the appropriate CDC IAW AFI 36-2201. This waiver request should be included in the package when the DoD certification based on reciprocity. Once you enter upgrade training, you cannot then enroll in any course other than a CDC to complete the training requirements. If you have a certification and you get selected for promotion you don't have to retake the CDC.

Q. I am a reservist who is also a civil service (civilian) or city/municipal firefighter. If I obtain my certifications through my primary employer do I have to take the CDCs for upgrade training?

A. No. You can apply for a waiver IAW AFI 36-2201. But, if you don't have the proper certification prior to entering upgrade training status, you cannot then go enroll in any other course to complete the CDC requirement. You must complete the CDC.

New Tanker Manual Available Free

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEMA and the USFA
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2003

Contact: Tom Olshanski, USFA
(202) 646-3068

NEW MANUAL ON SAFE OPERATIONS OF FIRE TANKERS NOW AVAILABLE FROM USFA EMMITSBURG, MD. - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today the availability of a new document, Safe Operation of Fire Tankers.

This new manual provides comprehensive information regarding the safety practices and principles of fire tanker vehicles for local-level fire departments. Safe Operation of Fire Tankers provides information related to human performance (driver training, operations, etc), technology (vehicle design), to enhance the safety of fire tanker operations. The manual also examines past incidents of crashes involving fire tankers that have killed firefighters with a focus on how these fatalities could have been prevented. Fire departments will find Safe Operation of Fire Tankers a valuable resource providing information related to the current and applicable Federal standards and regulations as well as national-level consensus standards and guidelines.

"Vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of all firefighter on duty fatalities," according to U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "The USFA is dedicated to providing this information to the fire service in support of our desired goal to eliminate firefighter deaths and injuries from fire tanker vehicle crashes."

As part of this project effort, a panel of technical experts in the area of fire service emergency vehicle operations, emergency vehicle maintenance, fire tanker design, and tanker water shuttle operations provided detailed recommendations on how to enhance the safety of fire tanker operations that were incorporated into the manual.

Limited quantities of this publication may be ordered free of charge. Visit the USFA on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> and click on publications. Another option is to contact USFA's Publications Office at (800) 561-3356 or (301) 447-1189. You may also FAX your request to (301) 447-1213. Mail orders will also be accepted at the following address:

United States Fire Administration Publications
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

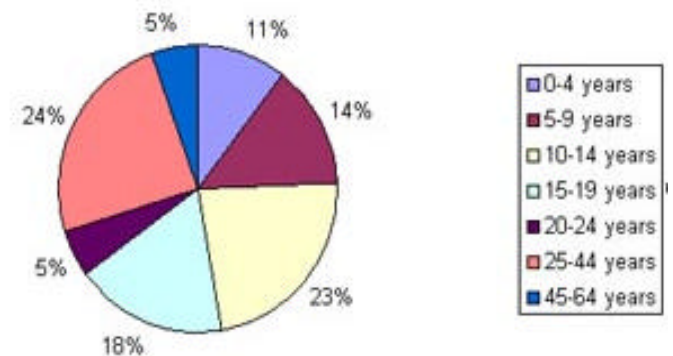
The dangers of amateur use of fireworks

by John R. Hall, Jr., NFPA assistant vice president, Fire Analysis and Research

In 2001, 9,500 people sustained an injury from fireworks serious enough to send them to their local emergency room. The majority of the injuries were burns (58.9%). These new figures underscore the fact that the risk of fireworks use -- measured as a rate of serious injuries per hour of exposure -- ranks with the highest risks of any known product. Any increase in the very limited (one day a year) typical usage pattern results in a large increase in injuries. Meanwhile, the share of fireworks injuries occurring at public displays remained low (none of the reported injuries) for Independence Day 2001. You really must leave fireworks to the professionals. Their shows are spectacular but safe. Amateur displays are unacceptably dangerous, especially to children, whose injury rates, as always, were several times those of adults.

Source: One-Stop Data Shop report, "Fireworks-Related Injuries, Deaths, and Fires".

Year 2001 Burn Victims by Age of Victim:



Year 2001 Fireworks Injuries by Types of Fireworks:

